



NEWS RELEASE

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FEBRUARY 3, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

Chaun J. Lawson, 31, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 24, 2003, **Lawson** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Greene County, Mo., from February 2002 to Feb. 8, 2003. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Lawson** admitted that he obtained crack cocaine from co-defendant **Anthony W. Wagner**, 34, of Springfield, and distributed it to others.

During the course of the investigations, Graves said, undercover officers succeeded in obtaining crack cocaine from **Lawson** on four separate occasions. **Lawson** acknowledged that the most readily provable amount of crack cocaine distributed by the conspiracy is at least 500 grams but less than 1.5 kilograms.

Two co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to charges contained in the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 13, 2003. **Marlon R. Certain**, 22, of Springfield, was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole on Jan. 16, 2004. **Wagner** pleaded guilty on Nov. 26, 2003, and awaits sentencing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), and the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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